

THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

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THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

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LEIGH HUNT, F.A.I.A., *Editor and Publisher*

ELIZABETH SCOTT HUNT, *Managing Editor*

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UNITING ON MODULAR STANDARDS TO BEAT HOUSING SHORTAGE

The architects, manufacturers of building materials and the government are getting together to make four inches the key factor in a drive to help lick the housing shortage, reduce building costs and make construction more efficient.

Four inches is the basic ingredient in a whole system of manufacturing building materials which holds promise of placing the construction industry on a mass production basis.

It is the heart of the new system that goes under the name of "modular coordination." Modular standards are developed by the American Standards Association Committee A62 which was organized in 1939 under the sponsorship of The American Institute of Architects and The Producers' Council. The Housing and Home Finance Agency has joined with these organizations in extending the use of the new system.

The theory is simple: if the controlling dimensions of all basic building units could be established at sizes of four inch increments, then all construction could be composed of multiples of that four inches, such as 8, 12 or 16 inches, or three feet four inches, etc. The four inch dimension or multiple includes the actual building material, plus one joint.

Vast strides have been made in acquainting architects and manufacturers, as well as distributors and contractors, with the implications of "modular coordination," and in recent months materials have been coming on the market in increasing quantity which adhere to this principle.

The architects and producers are cooperating with Raymond M. Foley, Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, in acquainting the public with the new methods of four-inch construction. Booklets will be made available this year by the government agency to the potential home owner, architects, designers, contractors and builders. The publications will explain in understandable terms the standardized measurements.

Specific accomplishments in the field of modular coordination are cited by the cooperating groups. At one time there were 30,000 types and sizes of metal windows — this number has been reduced to 300.

Production is easier, smaller inventories have to be maintained and construction savings of from 5 to

15 per cent have been attained.

Most dramatic use of the method has been in manufacture of windows, doors, kitchen cabinets, bricks and other masonry products.

"The architects believe, further, that in the event a collective bargaining unit is formed, it should have the sole right of designating its own representatives to take up matters with employers. This premise is based on the argument that persons outside of the architectural field are hardly qualified to act as representatives, since they would lack the knowledge and experience required to intelligently present the professional viewpoint in any collective bargaining case.

"We feel that because the practice of architecture is a career which requires a progressive and intellectual turn of mind, together with initiative, talent and a natural inclination, developed by intensive training, only those engaged in the pursuit of such a career should be vested with powers to determine policies affecting the welfare of the practitioners. It is inconceivable that anyone unfamiliar with the specialized training and experience necessary to the profession could satisfactorily represent any such group."

MORE APPRENTICES NEEDED SAYS J. M. ASHLEY

Further expansion of programs for training apprentices in the building trades will be needed to meet the requirements of the large volume of construction anticipated in 1949, James M. Ashley, President of the Producers' Council, national organization of building products manufacturers stated.

"Although more than 130,000 veterans and other young men were receiving training late last year, the number of registered apprentices did not increase substantially in the latter half of the year," Mr. Ashley said.

"A gain of more than 17,000 apprentices was reported during the first six months of the year but the number has remained relatively steady since that time.

"The volume of construction and the labor requirement this year are expected to exceed the 1947 totals by only a small amount but additional apprentices are required to replace older building trades workers who will retire during the year and to take the places of other workers who leave the trades for one reason or another.

"In addition, the volume of building in many individual communities will exceed the 1947 total even though no large increase is expected for the country as a whole, and those localities will need to expand their force of skilled construction workers.

"The field staff of the Bureau of Apprenticeship of the U.S. Department of Labor, which has done excellent work in helping to plan and set up local apprentice training programs, is available to assist employer groups and unions in making arrangements to initiate or expand local training facilities."

An advantage of the modular coordination principle is that a builder does not have to wait until all manufactured products are using the four-inch standard. It can be employed profitably in combination with more conventional techniques.

At a distribution level, a dealer research program among the nation's lumber yards has been spurred by findings in the reduction of man hours on small house construction. This work has been conducted by the Small Homes Council at the University of Illinois, which has tested and improved the techniques of building the modular house. All employ modular coordination principles.

The American Institute of Architects and the Producers' Council, through a joint committee, have adopted the following program:

1. Architects familiar with modular coordination are scheduled to discuss the latest developments before meetings of architects, producers and other building groups.

2. Architectural offices and producers of building materials who accept and apply the principles of modular coordination will receive recognition for their work.

3. Schools of architecture are being urged to include a study of modular coordination in their programs, particularly in design and drafting work.

4. The possibility of holding clinics for training draftsmen in using the technique is being studied.

5. Both groups are cooperating with the Housing and Home Finance Agency, particularly in a general educational program.

The joint Committee includes: Prof. Harold D. Hauf of Yale University, A.I.A. Co-Chairman; Harry C. Plummer of Washington, D.C., Producers' Council Co-Chairman; The American Institute of Architects — James W. Minick of Harrisburg, Pa. and Lessing W. Williams of New York City; Producers' Council — Fred J. Plimpton of New York City and Tyler S. Rogers of Toledo, Ohio.

WHAT? YOU'RE SCARED OF ARCHITECTS?

By GEORGE A. SANDERSON

(Reprint from *Better Homes & Gardens*)

Some people approach an architect with fear and trepidation. Probably they've never consulted one before; they don't know what to expect. So let's get one absurd idea out of the way once and for all. Architects are not queer birds. They're neither recluses nor wizards. They're simply normal human beings.

There's one thing distinctive about them, however. Thru their specialized training and skill, they are equipped and ready to serve you as professional men, prepared to act as your own personal agents, and to protect your interests thruout the highly complex problem of home building.

More immediately, of course, they digest all of your *general* ideas — about number of bedrooms, a room with a view, a fireplace, built-in cabinets, sliding closet doors — and organize them into a workable, sound design. An able architect, quite literally, can design your home so that your entire pattern of living changes from one of overwork and tense nerves into one of pleasurable, daily life and cheerful dispositions.

So, you see, the planning of your house is a joint activity between you and your architect. Tell him what you want, by all means; but let him show you the ways to achieve them.

YOUR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE — THE ARCHITECT

When you build, you want help from someone who knows all about materials and building and planning — someone as interested as you are in getting the best possible home for you and your family, and worth every one of the precious dollars you spend. Your architect is that someone. His reputation depends on it, and the ethics of his profession demand it.

An architect is *not* a dealer in materials or a building contractor who — if unscrupulous — could easily make unsatisfactory substitutes at your expense. His fee is his only payment, and one of the most priceless services, you receive for this fee is his concern for your welfare. He acts as your representative in solving technical and legal problems; he becomes your purchasing agent in selecting materials and equipment. Further, he has the business ability to choose between brands and varieties, to see that costs are in line, to make sure that the contractor is paid only when he has fully accomplished his work. Not the least of his invaluable knowledge is his acquaintance with the relative abilities of local building contractors. He knows the reliable, honest ones. There alone the architect has often saved the homeowner his entire fee and more.

HOW TO WORK WITH HIM

You've decided to build. You know how much space you'd like. You know how much you've got to spend. But I don't. Neither does your architect when he first meets you.

The first thing you do, then, is to sit down with him and tell him all about yourself, your family, your hobbies, your special likes and dislikes. And, very important, let him know your budget. Don't fail to discuss this frankly at the start; if you don't, it can mean plenty of trouble later on. If you aren't sure what you can afford, he will suggest the proper amount in relation to what you earn. If you plan to borrow to help finance the house, he can help you go about it. He'll honor your confidence and trust. Remember, he's a professional man.

You needn't wonder what he'll charge. The customary fee is a flat percentage of the total cost of the house — usually from 7 to 10 per cent for small houses. Discuss with him exactly what you're expected to pay — and when. For instance, if you commission him to develop preliminary plans and sketches and later are unable to go ahead with your plans, he is, of course, entitled to a certain amount for this preliminary work. Practice varies, but usually an architect charges a certain percentage of his fee for each major stage in the development of the plans. With all this mutually understood, you and your architect both sign standard forms of agreement, which legalize your architect-client relationship.

In an early discussion the question of your site will come up. If you already have your property, give your architect an accurate contour map of the land (a local surveyor will prepare one at a nominal cost) and full information as to sources of water, nearness to public power lines, etc. Your architect will, of course, want to visit the site at an early date, study

the lay of the land, the course of the sun, what outlook is most advantageous.

If you've not already bought your lot, the architect has a wealth of information that will assist you in your choice. He'll point out factors that may affect the value of the land, like nearness to public transportation or schools and shops, general trend of land values in the neighborhood.

Try to be absolutely honest with yourself — and with your architect. When he knows all about your hopes and desires, your budget and your family's idiosyncracies, he may find that your ideas are way out in front of your budget. He'll tell you so, and it's far better to know this early in the game. One of the things residential architects do all the time is plan and re-plan, so that you do get a house with most of your pet ideas, even tho you may have to forego some of your more flamboyant notions.

Now let's imagine that the architect has your preliminary drawings ready. He will have produced floor plans, perhaps with one or two variations; he'll have sketches to show how the house will look. Maybe it will be very like what you'd imagined; maybe it will be quite different. Now is the time for the most serious soul-searching. The architect will be eager to explain why he has arranged things just so; why some ideas wouldn't work. He'll point out ways in which he's saved you footsteps and housework; he'll show you what happens to the sunlight all day, where he's gained privacy for bedrooms, and how he's worked out closet and storage arrangements.

If anything was left out in the first conferences, now is the time to bring them up. If it's clear you must have more closets than the plans allow, or if the porch is too small or too large, now is the time to thrash it out. Later on — say when the construction's begun — a change is known as an "extra." And "extras" cost you over and above the contract price. But changes are a part of the agreed-upon architect's fee.

By this time, you'll have discussed the kind of heating system, number and location of electrical outlets, kinds of floor and wall coverings you'll want, and perhaps color schemes. If you think you want a certain kind of paint, ask him how it compares with others he knows about. If you listen to his advice, you're sure to get good results with a minimum of repair costs later on.

With the basic plans settled, the architect next makes "working drawings." These are exactly what they sound like — complete detailed drawings, with dimensions to the fraction of an inch, from which the builder will work, just as a woman makes a dress from a pattern.

In addition, the architect writes a set of specifications. These cover in detail the quality of materials and the grade of workmanship which must be met by the builder. They say exactly how many coats of paint — and what quality — shall be used, and they give all other specific instructions which will protect your investment and insure a soundly constructed, weathertight job.

With final approval of the finished drawings, the architect next recommends several building contractors whom he thinks should bid for the building job. He carries thru the details of getting their bids

and advises you as to the soundness of the lowest bidder.

And still he's far from finished. He will file your plans with the local building department, which must issue a permit before you can go ahead. He establishes a schedule for the payments you will make to the contractor — a certain portion of the total at stated intervals. The architect receives the bills from the contractor, but he OK's only those portions that are entirely completed and built as planned and specified.

In handling these certificates of payment, he continues to act as your agent. His issuance of the certificates assures you that such and such is satisfactorily completed and that the contractor's payment is justified and due. And he is able to do this because of one of the most important of all the services he gives you — that of building supervision. This does not mean *superintendence*; usually the contractor himself is on the job to superintend the work. But the architect does supervise. He (or a qualified person from his office) visits the job at least once at every major stage of construction. He studies the quality of workmanship. If any careless work is done, out of line with either the plans or specifications, he sees to it that the contractor corrects the error — at the contractor's expense, not yours.

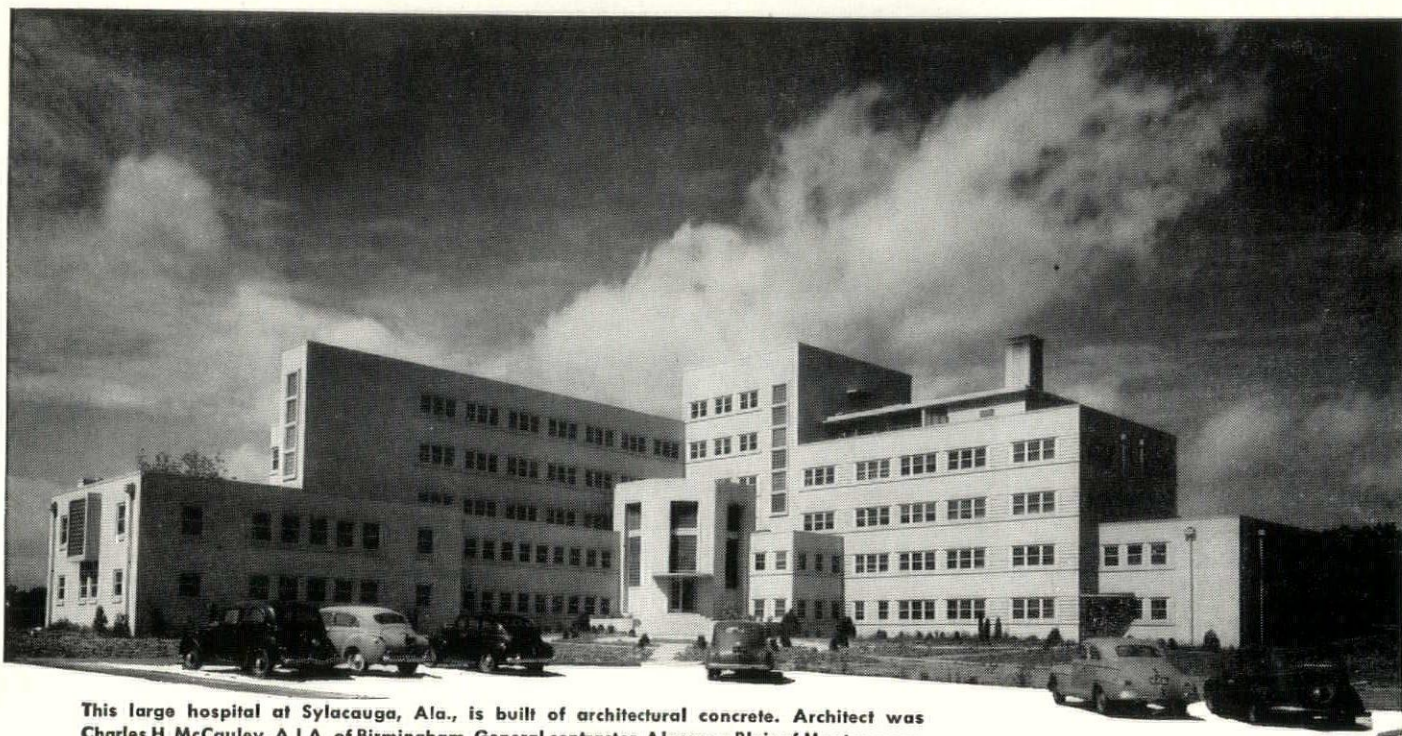
Here I'll add a warning which — if observed — will make the job go more smoothly for everybody and may save you a good deal of money as well. Since the architect is your agent in dealings with the contractor, be sure you respect that relationship. To put it briefly: Make it an absolute rule that you will give no instructions to the contractor yourself. If you have suggestions to make, talk them over with your architect. Then, if he agrees, let *him* give the instructions to the contractor. For one thing, this means that the contractor will receive his orders from only one person, and he'll appreciate that; it avoids the possibility of conflicting instructions. For another, it's possible that if the question concerns some structural matter, you may be wrong.

Now, finally, the day comes when the work is complete. The final certificate of payment has been issued; the contractor has left the site in good condition (as specified); and you have a house that is well-built, fine to look at, just right for the family, and economical to maintain.

SELECTING YOUR ARCHITECT

There is no magic way for you to select the best possible architect. The one you want, of course, is the one most likely to design the kind of house you want. Choosing this man is very much the same sort of problem as that of selecting your family doctor. If you have friends whose homes you admire and who have a successful experience with their home building, their architects may be good bets, indeed, for you. Or it is easy to find the name of the architect who designed that exciting modern house out on the hilltop just beyond town, or that pleasant little place on Elm Street.

But you won't decide for sure before you've made personal calls on a few of the architects themselves. There's nothing wrong with going to an architect's office and admitting you are trying to decide on the proper man for your job. Have him show you photo-



This large hospital at Sylacauga, Ala., is built of architectural concrete. Architect was Charles H. McCauley, A.I.A. of Birmingham. General contractor, Algernon Blair of Montgomery.

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graphs of the work he has done, see some of the work he is doing. Or have him give you a list of some of his clients, then write to them and find out how they fared. Most of them will be only too glad to tell you.

Some people have the mistaken impression that it is proper to ask several architects to submit free sketches to them for consideration. It isn't. Make up your mind on the basis of the work a man has done, or on his good reputation. If he were willing to give you free sketches, it would be fair to question the value of other work he might do for you.

One final word: Don't overlook the younger men who may not have had many homes built in your community as yet. Some may be working with established firms in town; others may have just hung up their own shingles. Wherever they are, if you have some interesting new ideas you'd like to work out in the design of your home, you'll find most of the younger men very responsive. And note this well: The man starting out in the profession on his own is especially anxious to do a superb job.

BACKS 1949 HOUSING ACT NOW BEFORE CONGRESS

Louis Justement of Washington, D.C. placed the support of The American Institute of Architects behind the Housing Act of 1949 now under consideration by both branches of Congress.

In a statement prepared for presentation to the subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, Mr. Justement suggested several amendments to the proposed bill which would provide greater autonomy for local communities engaging in large-scale low cost housing.

He cited the approval of The A.I.A. for "public housing for families of low income."

Mr. Justement told the committee: "I am authorized to state that The American Institute of Architects approves S. 138 (the Housing Act of 1949). This approval is not conditioned upon the adoption of the suggestions contained in this statement, but we believe that the bill would be improved materially if it is modified in accordance with the following recommendations."

The chief changes in the proposed bill suggested by Mr. Justement on behalf of The American Institute of Architects are as follows:

1. Title I of the Housing Bill, which refers to slum clearance, "is the most important title of S. 138 in its long-range implications although the present housing shortage will restrict its practical application on a large scale for several years to come," said Mr. Justement.

"We regret to see the administration of this important function made subordinate to housing. Housing is only one part of urban redevelopment and should not become the controlling factor.

"If we approach urban redevelopment from the point of view of mere slum clearance, there will be a strong temptation to replace patches of blighted housing with patches of sanitary housing without striving for improvements in the entire city pattern."

2. Mr. Justement suggested elimination of Section 101 of Title I of the bill, a section which makes Federal

assistance contingent on modifications of local building codes and local building practices. This section might—and probably would—result in the preparation by the Administrator of certain Federal standards with respect to the items enumerated," said the architect. "There would thus be created another source of resentment on the part of local communities with respect to dictation by the Federal Government. We believe that this section should be eliminated entirely."

3. The A.I.A. spokesman suggested that local communities be given greater freedom, in solving the problem of relocating families moved away from a housing project site, than is permitted in the housing bill. "We believe that local communities should be allowed great latitude in solving this very difficult problem," said Mr. Justement. "They may, for instance, desire to provide rental subsidies to the displaced families in order to permit these families to solve their own housing problems at much less cost to the government and with much less red tape."

4. Mr. Justement urged a broadening of the definition of the word "project" as pertaining to slum clearance so that it would mean more than the use of land which is "predominantly residential in character." The present wording, he pointing out, "might prevent effective urban redevelopment through this misplaced emphasis."

5. The A.I.A. spokesman, in considering the Title II section on Low-Rent Public Housing, suggested a change in the proposed gap of 20 per cent, marking the difference between the lowest rents being charged for private enterprise structures and the highest rents which can be permitted in public housing dwellings.

"This type of requirement has always been somewhat arbitrary and difficult of administration even under pre-war conditions," Mr. Justement asserted. "Under present conditions of acute housing shortage and rent-control these difficulties are aggravated. It is likely that the minimum gap provided by the law will also be the maximum. We believe that local housing authorities should be encouraged to serve a wider range of housing needs for low income families and that this result might be obtained by increasing the gap between public and private housing from 20 to 25 per cent, but basing it on an average figure for the public housing project so that the latter could, for instance, provide minimum rentals as much as 35 per cent below the private housing minimum by making its maximum rent only 15 per cent below the private housing minimum.

"It would seem also that some clarification is needed concerning the manner in which private rentals are to be measured . . . As long as we have rent-control, rentals on existing structures are meaningless from the point of view of making realistic comparisons with rentals on new housing, either public or private, and it would seem desirable to make this point clear."

6. The cost limitation of \$1,750 per room is "likely to be too low for many communities," Mr. Justement commented, but an additional \$750, permitted under certain circumstances, "should be sufficient to take care of such cases."

7. In commenting on the "annual contributions" to be made by the Government to implement this program, The A.I.A. representative said they "appear

to be liberal and they may be predicated on establishing a rental scale comparable to the pre-war public housing. Since wages are more than twice what they were during the pre-war period it would seem that average rentals for post-war public housing should be at least twice as much as they were in the pre-war period. This might permit a very substantial reduction in the amount of the annual grants necessitated under this bill.

"We realize, of course, that the reduction in the period of amortization from 60 years to 40 years — a reduction which we believe is desirable — will necessitate an increase in the amount of the annual contributions; but the amount of the increase, per family, as provided in this bill appears excessive."

8. The proposed housing bill, Mr. Justement indicated, requires a local community to contribute its share to public housing by permitting tax exemption, in part. "We believe," he said, "that it is unwise to compel the local community to provide partial tax-exemption in lieu of a cash contribution — even though most of them may prefer to solve the problem by tax-exemption. We believe that it makes for better municipal bookkeeping to tax public housing projects on the same basis as private housing projects; the municipality should, therefore, have the right to make its contribution in some other form than that of tax-exemption."

9. The American Institute of Architects' spokesman asked that in the planning and design of individual

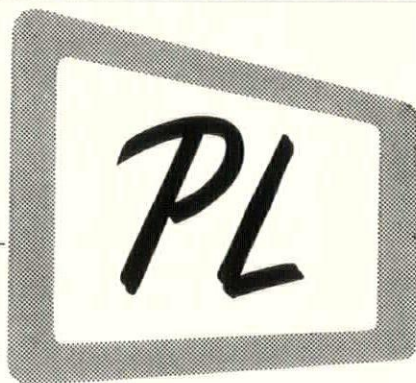
projects, the local housing authorities be given the widest possible latitude.

"One of the legitimate complaints concerning public housing projects," he asserted, "is that they suffer from excessive standardization and that local initiative and ingenuity is handicapped by needless red-tape due to the formulation of 'standards' by the Public Housing Authorities.

"We are firmly convinced that local authorities should be encouraged to rely on their own ingenuity in meeting their own problems in their own way. While some of the more inexperienced local authorities may make mistakes, these will be offset by the better results secured by others when freed from centralized controls.

"There is no magic formula in housing and we have tried everything to gain from experimentation and the application of trial and error methods based on competitive striving for the best results. The function of the Federal government in housing should be that of assisting the municipalities financially (because of their limited sources of income) and not that of needless detailed control over the planning and design of individual projects."

10. Mr. Justement called for specification of the amount necessary to carry on "housing research" under terms of the proposed bill. "Unless the amount is adequate — and sufficient to permit experimental construction and testing of such construction — the research is apt to degenerate into an examination of



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existing reports and data and the compilation of further reports which nobody reads," he asserted. "We believe that technical research in this field is desirable but only if it is undertaken on an adequate basis with sufficiently skilled personnel to make it really effective."

DODGE REPORTS DROP IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

Contracts awarded for building and heavy engineering projects in the thirty-seven states east of the Rocky Mountains last month showed a sharp break from the volume reported in December and in January of last year, it was reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation, a fact-finding organization for the building industry.

A statistical summary of investment commitments reported in field reports showed a total contract volume last month of \$482,984,000. This total was 31 per cent less than that reported in December and 22 per cent lower than the volume reported in January of last year.

The over-all decline in building and construction contracts was least severe in New England, the Middle Atlantic and Southeastern states, and the region comprised of northern Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin and northern Michigan.

The decline was especially pronounced in residential and heavy engineering awards. The Dodge corporation reported a residential contract volume in the thirty-seven states of \$159,128,000 last month, reflecting a 38 per cent drop from December and a 33 per cent decline from the total reported in January of last year. The declines affected apartment house

building as well as single-family houses. The decline was less pronounced in houses built to owners' orders for their own occupancy, last month's volume being down 33 per cent compared with December but up 2 per cent compared to January of last year.

Residential awards were down last month compared with December in all fifteen major reporting regions east of the Rockies, with exception of Louisiana and Mississippi, and were down in January compared with the corresponding month of last year in all but three regions, namely, New England, upstate New York, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Heavy engineering awards last month aggregated \$101,973,000 to show a 40 per cent drop from December and 25 per cent decline from January 1948.

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Only three of the fifteen reporting regions showed an upswing in heavy engineering awards compared with December and with January of last year, namely, the Middle Atlantic states; southern Michigan; and the region comprised of northern Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin and northern Michigan.

Increases in awards for hospitals, institutional buildings and churches last month lessened the severity of the drop in nonresidential buildings as a group, the Dodge corporation reported. The volume of nonresidential awards last month was \$221,883,000. This total was 17 per cent less than December's and 8 per cent less than in January of last year. Manufacturing building awards, and contracts for educational and science buildings showed the sharpest declines among nonresidential classifications. Nonresidential building gains were reported in New England, in the Southeastern states, in Ohio, Kentucky, Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Approximately one-third by dollar volume of all commitments made last month was for projects classified as publicly owned, according to an analysis of contracts by the Dodge statistical division. The percentage of total contract volume reported under public ownership last month for the three major classifications is as follows: nonresidential 28 per cent; residential 8 per cent; public works and utilities 82 per cent.

A.I.A. ASKS FOR END OF RENT CONTROL

The American Institute of Architects advocated a declaration of intent by Congress for a gradual increase in rentals being charged to tenants and asked for complete abolition of rent control by 1953.

Louis Justement, of Washington, D.C., Chairman of the Urban Planning Committee of The A.I.A., made this suggestion in a statement prepared for the House Committee on Banking and Currency.

He asked for modification of House Bill 1731, on rent control, so that "gradual increases could be made without creating unnecessary hardships for the tenants."

Mr. Justement said: "The Board of Directors of The Institute and the Committee on Urban Planning are seriously concerned with the effect of continued rent control, with respect to provision of an adequate supply of new housing."

The A.I.A. spokesman pointed out that normally the needs of families in the so-called "twilight zone" of housing as well as families in the low income group are met through operation of the "filtering down" process. This process depends on a normal balance between supply and demand and the abolition of the artificial price and rent relationships resulting from rent control.

"An essential part of any over-all solution of our housing problems is the abolition, as quickly as possible, of all forms of rent control — not from the point of view of benefiting the landlords but from that of permitting the housing industry to function effectively," he said.

"On the other hand, we fully realize the necessity of not adding to inflationary pressures at this particular moment when there are a number of encouraging indices that offer some hope that we may have reached the crest of inflation.

"A declaration of intent on the part of the Congress, however, to increase the maximum permitted rentals by approximately 20 per cent in 1950, 15 per cent in 1951, 15 per cent in 1952 and to abolish them in 1953 would tend to gradually restore the normal functioning of the law of supply and demand in the housing industry."

Mr. Justement pointed out that if we merely extend present rent controls from year to year without any long-range policy, "we may find it necessary to continue them indefinitely.

"We realize, of course, that this session of Congress cannot bind the actions of the succeeding sessions of Congress," he said. "But it is possible, in this Bill, to provide for a permissible increase of 20 per cent over the present rentals, such increase to take effect not sooner than January 1, 1950.

"We strongly urge that the Bill be modified in accordance with this suggestion."

E. R. PURVES FILES STATEMENT ON LABOR RELATIONS ACT

Edmund R. Purves, Executive Director of The American Institute of Architects, filed a statement with the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, asking that the newly proposed National Labor Relations Act include provisions for protecting the collective bargaining rights of professional employees.

Mr. Purves recommended that sections of the existing labor management law (the Taft-Hartley Law) with respect to professional employees be incorporated in Senate Bill 249. He stated no exception has been taken to these sections and that they have been successful in application.

"The American Institute of Architects is a national professional organization, comprising 88 chapters and 7 State organizations in the United States and its possessions," he wrote to the Senate committee, "and is the only organization representing the profession of architecture. As the spokesman for its approximately 8,000 members, it is considered competent to express the opinion of the profession as a whole."

The existing labor management law, Mr. Purves pointed out, covers three points with which The American Institute of Architects is concerned, including:

1. No employee in a professional office should be obliged, against his will, to join a labor organization as a condition of employment.

2. In the event that a collective bargaining group be formed in a professional office, it must not be forced to affiliate with a non-professional labor organization.

3. The right of employees in any such unit to designate their own representatives must be respected and observed.

"The architects recognize the right of any group to form units for the purposes of collective bargaining," he said, "but believe that as a supplement to this established right, membership in such unit should not be made a condition of employment.

"The architects believe that if a group of professional employees does organize for collective bargaining purposes, their actions should not be directed or governed by non-professional people.

"The matter of affiliation should be left entirely with the professional architects involved.

USE MODULAR COORDINATION IN HOSPITAL DESIGNS COUNCIL URGES VA

The Producers' Council has advised the Veterans' Administration that the cost of constructing hospitals for veterans can be reduced and building time can be shortened by designing the buildings in accordance with the principles of modular coordination, according to David S. Miller, President of the Council.

"It was with considerable regret that the Council learned that the VA had elected not to utilize the benefits of modular construction in the veterans' hospitals being designed by its staff," Mr. Miller said.

"The U. S. Corps of Engineers, which is advising architects and engineers in the design of approximately 70 other veterans' hospitals, has urged the use of modular design after thorough investigation of the merits and savings which can be attained, and we hope that the Veterans Administration will reconsider its decision to disregard this program.

"The attainable savings have become widely recognized in the building industry and in the government. The Housing and Home Finance Agency has agreed to help encourage wider use of modular coordination, and the Joint Housing Committee of Congress has publicly singled out the project as a means of cost reduction.

"Manufacturers of metal and wood windows and doors, clay and concrete masonry materials, glass block, wall board, and other building products have converted the dimensions of their materials to the modular basis for the purpose of reducing building costs and improving the quality of construction, and it is unfortunate that the available savings will not be realized in the hospitals which the VA is designing, particularly since the use of modular design by the VA would give a healthy boost to the program throughout the building industry.

"The Council will gladly provide all needed technical advice to the VA if it will reconsider its position and adopt modular coordination in its designs."

Prentice Bradley, Pittsfield, Mass., has been named technical Consultant to the Producers' Council, national organization of building products manufacturers, David S. Miller, Council President, announced today.

Mr. Bradley, who is a practicing architect, will assist the Council in the further development of modular coordination and in the engineering of typical buildings, and will advise on research and technical matters. He also will serve as technical secretary of the American Standards Association's Committee A-62 for the coordination of dimensions of building material and equipment.

Since 1938 Mr. Bradley has been Technical Director of the Modular Service Association and in that capacity counseled with architectural offices and others on the use of modular design.

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Mr. Bradley holds the degree of Master of Architecture from Harvard University and is a member of the American Institute of Architects. He is at present a member of the firm of Bradley & Gass, Architects, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

REFERENDUM ON VETERANS' HOUSING

In July of 1947 the Wisconsin legislature appropriated state funds to aid in the provision of veterans housing. The wine and liquor tax was doubled with the proviso that one-half of the amount collected after the effective date of the act was to be used to aid in the construction of veterans housing. This state aid was to be in the form of grants of as much as 15% of the cost of projects to be constructed by city or county housing authorities.

No grants have been made under this act because in March 1948 the Supreme Court found the statute unconstitutional on the ground that it violated the constitutional prohibition against the state being a party to work of internal improvement.

In July 1948 the Governor called a special session of the legislature to request passage of a resolution amending the constitution to permit the state to aid in the provision of veterans housing. The legislature passed such a resolution. Recently the new (1949) legislature also passed the resolution. The proposed amendment, having been approved by the 1947 and 1949 legislatures, will now be placed on the ballot at the spring election on April 5th. *In addition to the importance of furnishing information to the people on the fact that the proposed amendment will be on the ballot, it is also important for the voters to know that the passage of the amendment will not reinstate the 1947 law which was found to be unconstitutional. Instead the 1949 legislature will have to enact legislation after the amendment is passed if there is to be a state veterans housing program.*

It has recently been stated that the state can make direct housing loans to veterans even if the constitutional amendment is defeated. Lawyers who participated in the Supreme Court case agree that this is not true.

The state is certainly as much a party to a work of internal improvement if it makes a housing loan as if it makes a housing grant. In case of a loan the state retains its interest in housing until the loan is repaid rather than only long enough to make a grant.

A constitutional veterans housing program requires passage of the amendment on April 5th.

The referendum will be phrased as follows:

"Shall Article VIII Section 10 of the Constitution be amended so that the state may appropriate money for the acquisition, improvement or construction of Veterans' Housing?"

The Wisconsin Joint Veterans Housing Committee consists of two members of each of the following veterans organizations: American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans Committee, AMVETS, Army and Navy Union, U.S.A., Military Order of the Purple Heart and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Committee members were appointed by the state commanders of the above organizations. The primary purpose of the committee is to acquaint the citizens of Wisconsin of the need for adoption of a constitutional amendment to permit the state to assist veterans in obtaining housing.

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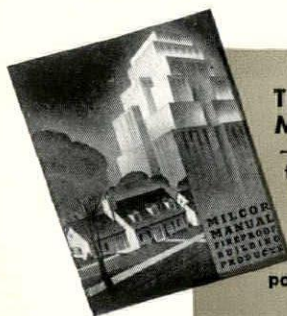
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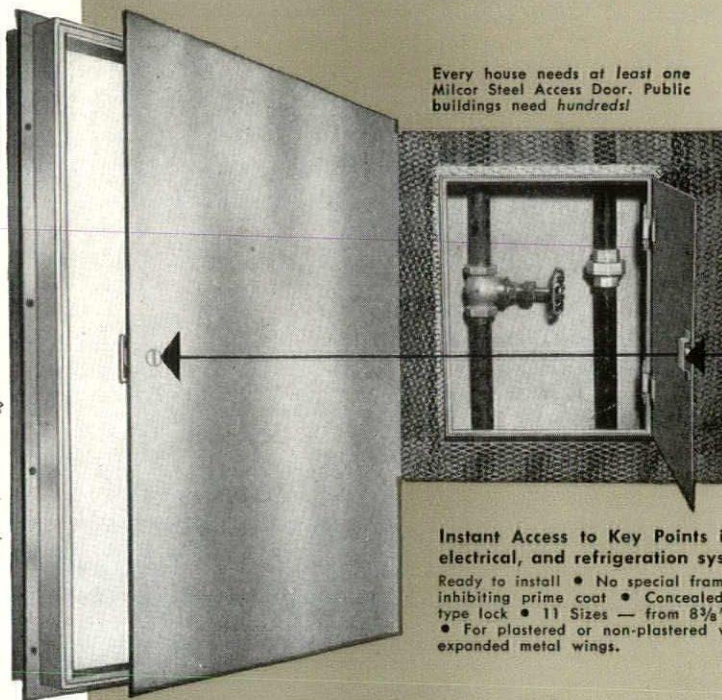
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